Washington - D. C.
Feb. 29th 1876

My dear Lie

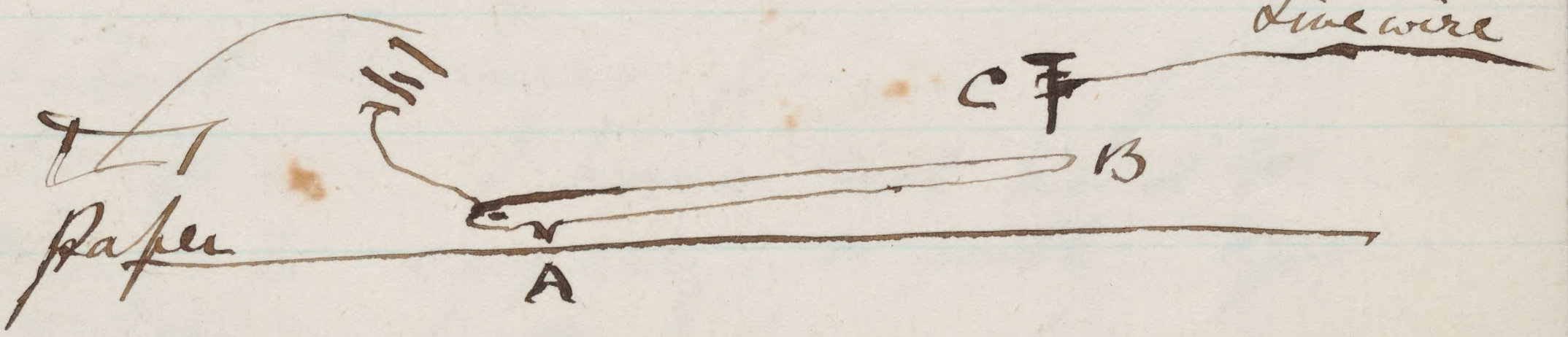
I am here on patent business for a few days. I have not had much time to experiment with your style — but I have been convinced that your idea is perfectly feasible. I put the question to one of the Examiners in the Patent Office asking him whether he knew of any system of Autographic Telegraphy in which the ink became the conductor surface and the paper the non-conductor

He then described your style exactly. I asked him where I could find a description of that and he gave me the reference "No 12054 Old Law - English Patent — Jacob Brett — 1848"

I shall hunt up the reference and if I find it so — I shall forward you an abstract of the Specification.

Also The gentleman who

assists me in developing my telegraphic ideas has suggested a new kind of style for accomplishing the same thing.



He proposes to use a thick ink or to emboss the writing upon paper so that the raised surface lifting A may raise the long end B against a screw C in this way making a circuit. Does this strike you as feasible?

I am involved in too many interferences here. I have to fight no less than three opponents. I have however developed my system of Telegr. so far in advance of all my competitors that there is no doubt that I can obtain a Patent that will effectually shut off all competition.

Should I succeed in gaining my new patent I shall send you a copy of my specification.

With kind regards

Yrs Truly

A. Graham Bell

P.S. I have just experienced the mortification of finding one of my Patents, already old. My improved "Spark Arrester" was patented in 1861 now expired in studying the Patent Office — so as to avoid similar things — by finding out all that has hitherto been done. I return to Boston on Monday A.G.B.

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